

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey today announced that the Callicoon Fire District has been awarded a \$35,169 federal grant to purchase new firefighting equipment and an emergency power generator. The funding is provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The volunteer firefighters of the Callicoon Fire District who respond to their community's emergency calls deserve to have the right tools for the job," Hinchey said. "The back-up power generator and updated equipment funded through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program will help to continue the vital services provided by the District. I am proud to continue supporting this important federal grant program, which prevented the need for taxpayers to shoulder the cost of these upgrades locally, and I am working to pass legislation that would provide tax credits to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers. We cannot say thank you enough for all the hard work these very dedicated men and women do."

The Callicoon Fire District is an all-volunteer department that services a large rural area. This funding will be used to purchase an emergency back-up generator to provide power to the region in the case of a power outage. The Callicoon District firehouse serves as an emergency command center for the region and currently lacks a back-up power system. The District also will replace obsolete nozzles and hoses which leak and must be pulled from service over the course of the next year. These upgrades will help enable the District to meet current NFPA and OSHA standards without passing on the expense to communities that already are struggling to meet rising costs.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$18.7 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.